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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

COUNTRY	Austria (Russian Zone)	DATE DISTR.	2 July 1948
SUBJECT	Infiltration of Foreign Communists in Lower Austria	NO. OF PAGES	
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25X1A The following report supplements information received from another [REDACTED]

1. Since March 1948, about 850 foreigners, mostly Czechs, have arrived in Lower Austria illegally and secured employment in Soviet-controlled enterprises, especially in the Zistersdorf industries. The majority consists of individuals who have been specially trained by the Czech Communist Party for the following functions in Austria:
  - a. Strengthening of the Werkschutz.
  - b. Spreading of propaganda at the direction of the Czech and Austrian Communist Parties.
2. About 380 foreigners have recently arrived from Hungary to work for Soviet-controlled farms and factories in Burgenland. They arrive in groups of six to ten, work during one to three months, and return to Hungary. Allegedly, their mission is to engage in subversive activity in Austrian farm cooperatives. In order to deceive the farmers, some of the newcomers claim to be Hungarian political refugees.
3. The total number of foreign Communists in eastern Austria is estimated at 1,000. This figure includes some Bulgarians, Yugoslavs, and Greeks, but the great majority is Czech or Hungarian. Some have recently been furnished with false Austrian identity cards to enable them to travel without Austrian police interference.
4. Until recently, about 18 Czech and Hungarian Communists acted as advisers at the Werkschutz headquarters on Boecklinstrasse, Vienna; but, because they disagreed with the Austrian Werkschutz director, Josef Obermeier, they were ordered to return home.

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